

OCTOBER 2010

# EMPLOYEE NEWSLETTER

*Serving the residents, businesses, and industries of the County in such a manner as to sustain and raise the quality of life for the citizenry.*



## Mark Your Calendars

- Alzheimer's Walk Sat. Oct 2<sup>nd</sup> at 9:00 AM
- Commissioners Meeting Oct. 4<sup>th</sup> at 2:00 PM
- Dept. Head Meeting Oct. 6<sup>th</sup> at 8:30 AM
- One Stop Voting Begins Oct. 14<sup>th</sup>
- Dept. Head Meeting Oct. 20<sup>th</sup> at 8:30 AM

## Avoiding Traffic Jams on the Information Highway

With over 400 computers logged on to the internet, it's really easy to eat up our bandwidth, or available space through which digital info travels. High internet traffic can slow down our systems, especially at critical times like payroll processing. Remember to log on only when necessary, don't leave open web pages that constantly update or refresh themselves, and remember that county computers are for county business.

## From the County Manager

As if the current laws related to public records are not challenging enough to understand, now there are some changes that go into effect October 1<sup>st</sup>. Most notable are additions to what is public in personnel records. It was already the case that basic information like name, age, position, date of employment, current salary, and date of most recent promotion, demotion, transfer or suspension is public record. Now the changes in the law include adding more detailed information regarding personnel changes including reasons for disciplinary actions and a copy of the written notice for termination.

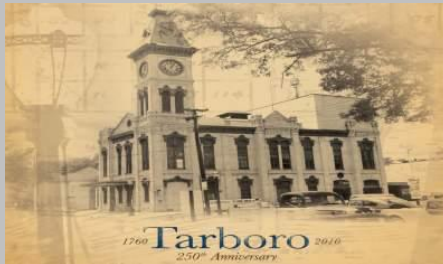
There is still a lot of debate as to whether these changes pertain to information in personnel records prior to October 1. Hopefully we will soon receive clarification from legal authorities. In the mean time, I ask that any requests for public information, whether related to personnel records or other information, be channeled to my office. Simply have the person to call my office to make that request. Also, be sure to inform your supervisor immediately when you receive such a request.

BEEN ON OUR WEBSITE LATELY? CHECK IT OUT!  
[WWW.EDGECOMBECOUNTYNC.GOV](http://WWW.EDGECOMBECOUNTYNC.GOV)

## Quote of the Month

"October is a blessed rest between the miseries of summer and winter."  
-Unknown





**Happy Birthday Tarboro!**

### **RETIRING LAW ENFORCEMENT HAVE NEW OPTIONS TO TRANSFER 401(K)**

There was a new Technical Corrections bill passed during the 2010 legislative session giving law enforcement officers, vested before June 30, 2010, the option of transferring partial funds from their NC 401(k) account to their Retirement System account at retirement. As a result of the legislation, Form 319, *Choosing to Transfer Supplemental Income Plan Contributions for an additional Monthly Benefit*, was revised to give law enforcement officers the option to transfer a portion of their funds. Prior to the passage of the bill, law enforcement officers were only able to transfer all their money from their NC 401(k) account to their Retirement System account. Having multiple options to transfer all or a portion of their money now gives law enforcement the opportunity to maintain a cash reserve in case of emergencies, or to use at a future date. - Submitted by Carolyn Hedgepeth

## **Employee News**

- Remember to pay your taxes! For employees who still owe past due taxes, there is still time to set up a payment plan before they become delinquent and go into garnishment. Also, you can breakup your tax bill and have them prepaid in installments to lessen the one-time burden it poses for many. See the Tax Collector's Office for more info.
- CPR/First Aid Classes are full for the remainder of the year. Thanks to everyone who participated! Right now we have 244 employees certified in CPR/First Aid. A schedule of classes for next year is forthcoming.
- Starting Oct. 1<sup>st</sup>, the Convenience Centers can no longer accept appliances with Freon. Go to our website for more information.
- Angela Johnson, Admin. Asst. for Emergency Services and Maintenance, completed the NC Emergency Mgt. New Employee program. Congratulations from Butch Beach, Emergency Service Director.



*Fall Leaves in Tarboro*

WE ARE NOW ENTERING FLU SEASON. THE CENTER FOR DISEASE CONTROL RECOMMENDS EVERYONE 6 MONTHS OLD & OLDER TO GET THE FLU VACCINE AS SOON AS IT'S AVAILABLE. A SCHEDULE FOR FREE FLU SHOTS FOR EMPLOYEES WILL BE COMING OUT SOON. BE ON THE LOOKOUT.



Marva Scott, DSS Director, is leading the charge for the 2010-2011 United Way Campaign. All donations go to local charities, and you can easily have it payroll deducted. Go to [www.unitedwaytrr.org](http://www.unitedwaytrr.org) for more info on the great programs supported by United Way. If you would like to donate, you can get the form from your department head.



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## RETIREMENT PLANNING CONFERENCE SCHEDULED

The NC Retirement System conducts retirement conferences for members. They provide an orientation for new members, pre-retirement planning, and educational information for personnel officers. If you are unable to attend a conference, you can get the presentations, as well as other retirement info online at [www.ncnretirement.com](http://www.ncnretirement.com). Here is a list of 2 conference sites relatively close to us. For a full list, check the website.

Oct. 7<sup>th</sup> - NC School of Math & Science; ETC Auditorium, 1219 Broad St., Durham NC

Oct. 20<sup>th</sup> - Vernon James Center, Conference Rm, 207 Research Station Road, Plymouth NC

Sessions for local government employees begin at 1:30 pm.

*The Service  
Awards Banquet  
was yet again  
another  
wonderful event!*



## SECU Supports Our Troops

*Submitted by Stephen Bernard, Veteran Services*

The NC State Employees Credit Union is launching a statewide holiday campaign, SECU Supports the Troops, to benefit NC National Guard and Reservists deployed throughout the world. SECU will collect items for the soldiers and provide gifts from home. Collection boxes for wish list items will be placed in each of the SECU branches for members and those in the community to participate in this exciting effort. Canisters will also be provided on the teller counters for those who would like to give a monetary donation to help ship the supplies to the troops. The final date of collecting will be October 15<sup>th</sup>.

Items on the wish list include: snacks, coffee, soap, toothbrushes, and sun block. You can find the complete wish list at [www.ncsecu.org](http://www.ncsecu.org).

State Employees' Credit Union®



THE OFFICE ON AGING IS ORGANIZING AN ALZHEIMER'S WALK THIS SATURDAY OCTOBER 2<sup>ND</sup> AT 9:00 AM. CONGRATULATIONS TO THE OFFICE ON AGING FOR RAISING MORE THAN DOUBLE THE PREVIOUS YEAR'S DONATIONS!

*Are You Registered to Vote? The Deadline to Register is October 8<sup>th</sup>.  
You can easily register at the Board of Elections office in the County Administration Bldg. Room 355*